

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the paragraph on page 15, lines 3-16 with the following:

Figure 2A is a side view of another embodiment of a splittable introducer that may be used in accordance with the current invention. This embodiment of the introducer, which is disclosed in commonly-assigned U.S. Patent Number ~~4,400,469~~ 5,409,469 to Schaerf entitled "Introducer System Having Kink Resistant Splittable Sheath" incorporated herein in its entirety, is splittable. Specifically, introducer 11 may be longitudinally split along line 13 by grasping tabs 15A and 15B as it is being withdrawn from the introduction site. In the preferred embodiment, line 13 comprises a scoring within wall of introducer 11 as is known in the art. Various other equivalent means may also be used to accomplish splitting sheath 11 along line 13, such as providing a linear region of the wall that is weakened, as shown in Vegoe et al U.S. Pat. No. 5,180,372, incorporated herein by reference. The weakened wall section may consist of material having the physical property of molecular orientation whereby a tear in the material runs readily only in a longitudinal direction along the length of introducer 11, as is known in the art. Alternatively, a sheath slitter or the like may be used to split the introducer.

Please replace the paragraph on page 16, lines 14-19 with the following:

In the preferred embodiment of the invention, the introducer is adapted to receive a guidewire. The body of the guidewire may be of any conventional design such as that described in commonly-assigned U.S. Patent Number 4,815,478 to Buchbinder et al., incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. Suitable alternative guidewire systems are described in U.S. Patent Numbers 5,095,915, 4,545,390, or ~~5,746,740~~ 5,746,701, all incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.

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Please cancel the abstract as filed and replace it with the following:

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